Project Purpose and Description

I-85 HOV to HOT Conversion Project - P.I. No. 0009295/0009296/0009297
From Chamblee Tucker Road to just north of Old Peachtree Road (approximately 16 miles)
DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties, Georgia

November 12, 2009

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to provide the most effective use of the managed lanes along the most congested portions of I-85 north of Atlanta in order to provide reliable travel times in this corridor.

Project Description

The Georgia Department of Transportation and regional transportation partners are engaged in a project to convert approximately 16 miles (from Chamblee Tucker Road to just north of Old Peachtree Road) of HOV lanes into High Occupancy Toll or HOT Lanes. This change allows use of the lanes by qualifying vehicles or others who choose to pay a toll. The new HOT lanes would take the place of the existing HOV lanes.

All vehicles must pre-register to ride in the HOT lanes. Technologies will be employed to allow tolling of vehicles without stopping. Electronic and visual methods will be used to identify HOT lane violators. The toll paid to use the facility will vary based on the number of vehicles using the HOT lanes. This pricing strategy, known as "dynamic pricing" will allow GDOT to ensure that vehicles traveling in the HOT Lanes are able to keep moving and have a reliable travel time.

Vehicle classifications eligible to use the I-85 HOT lanes without incurring a toll would be:

- Passenger vehicles with three or more occupants
- Transit Buses
- On-call emergency vehicles
- Motorcycles
- Vehicles with alternative-fuel vehicle (AFV) license plate

Vehicles eligible to use the I-85 HOT lanes for a toll would be:

- Two-person occupancy vehicle
- Single occupancy vehicles (SOV)

Concurrent projects will enhance transit options, including the installation of two new park and ride lots along I-85 at Hamilton Mill Road and Cedars Road and the purchase of 36 additional express bus coaches.

Project Funding

This project is being funded through a Federal Funding source to demonstrate the capabilities of HOT lanes to provide travel time reliability.